

Undergrounding Residential Utility Lines

Council District One Summary Sheet

There are 24 utility line undergrounding projects planned for District One. The undergrounding projects have been sequenced from Project 1 to Project 24 with starting points in La Jolla, University City, La Jolla Shores and Mt. Soledad. There are also two separate projects in the Carmel Valley area. Please see attached sheet for the order of undergrounding projects. At the request of Councilman Peters, the City is offering two options to residents who wish to expedite the undergrounding of utility lines in their neighborhoods.

Alternative Procedures:

1) Cost Sharing with the City of San Diego

Step 1: Property owners are required to identify an area for proposed undergrounding. To qualify for cost sharing, the undergrounding proposal must include at least 40 contiguous homes OR 5200 feet (about one mile), whichever is greater. Choose a point of contact for all affected homeowners.

Step 2: Contact the City of San Diego's Undergrounding Program at (619) 533-3841. City staff will give an initial determination of the proposal and feasibility of the proposed undergrounding area. Criteria include circuit locations, topography of the area, and boundary verification.

Step 3: The residents next pay engineering design fees. A resident fee paid to the City Engineer is necessary to cover engineering design costs, which include utility company cost, city staff time cost and design cost. From \$30,000 to \$40,000 is an approximate cost for the engineering phase. This phase can be paid for in a variety of ways, including forming an assessment district, paying a portion directly per household, or a few neighbors paying this amount.

Step 4: The total estimated cost for the undergrounding project will be given to the point of contact for the neighborhood group. In the past, these costs have ranged from approximately \$10,000 to \$30,000 per property.

Step 5: If the group agrees to proceed with and fund the undergrounding project based on the cost estimate, the City will contract for the work and will provide half the funding. All homeowners must agree to hook up their home to the undergrounded lines; however, each individual homeowner doesn't need to agree to provide funding if the neighbors are willing to make up the difference.

2) Private Project working directly with the utilities

If an undergrounding area does not qualify for the cost sharing option, property owners may work directly with private utilities to fund and complete an underground conversion project. The most common reason for utilizing this approach would be a small geographic area that does not meet the thresholds for the cost sharing alternative. Please contact the City of San Diego's Undergrounding Program at (619) 533-3841 for information.